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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/713,013	11/17/2003	Motoki Numata	245309US0X CONT	9740	
22850 7590 02/22/2006			EXAMINER		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET			KUNEMUND, ROBERT M		
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			1722		
			DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.         Application No.           Office Action Summary         Implication No.         Application No.           The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -           Participation State of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -           Participation State of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -           Participation State of the solution of the solution of the opplication.           - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -           Participation State of the solution of the solution of the opplication.           - The MAILING DATE of this communication.           - The Mailing of the opplication.           - The Mailing of the opplication of the opplication.           - The Mailing of the opplication of the opplication.           - The Mailing of the opplication of the opplication.           - The Mailing of the opplication of the application.           - The mailing of the opplication of the opplication.           - Claim(s)         _ this application is in condition the application.           - Claim(s)         _ this application of the opplication.           - Claim(s)         _ this application and/or election requirement.           Opplication Papers         _ this application fon opplicatin the opplication. <td< th=""><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>5</th></td<>					5
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2a)       This action is FINAL.       2b)       This action is non-final.         3)       Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.         Disposition of Claims       4)       Claim(s) 25-49 is/are pending in the application.         4a) Of the above claim(s)is/are allowed.          6)       Claim(s) 25-49 is/are rejected.         7)       Claim(s)is/are objected to.         8)       Claim(s)is/are objected to.         9)       The specification is objected to by the Examiner.         10)       The specification is objected to by the Examiner.         10)       The drawing(s) filed onis/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.         Application Papers       9)         9)       The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.         10)       The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.         Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119         12)       Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).         a)       Application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).         * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the cartified copies of the priority documents have been rece	Status				
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<ul> <li>a) All b) Some * c) None of:</li> <li>1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</li> <li>2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No</li> <li>3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</li> <li>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</li> </ul> Attachment(s) <ul> <li>Attachment(s)</li> <li>Attachment(s)</li> <li>Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> </ul>	Priority u	nder 35 U.S.C. § 119			
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## DETAILED ACTION

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 25, 26, and 31 to 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turner et al (6,307,099) in view of Beard et al (WO 00/71226).

The Turner et al reference teaches a method of making terephthalic acid, note entire reference. The reactants are fed into a reaction chamber. One reactant can be oxygen, note examples. The reactants are reacted at temperatures and pressures within the claimed ranges, above the boiling points, note examples. The resultant slurry is then recovered from the chamber. The slurry is then subjected to a separation step, where the pressures and temperatures are similar in nature to the reaction ones, note

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examples. The solids are thus separated to create a cake. The cake is then subjected to a drying step. The sole difference between the instant claims and the prior art is the specific drying step. However, the Beard et al reference teaches that the drying step is done with lower pressures then the separation steps, note page 4. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Turner et al reference by the teachings of the Beard et al reference to dry with lower pressure in order to vaporize the liquid and increase the speed of drying.

Claims 27 to 30 and 39 to 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turner et al (6,307,099) in view of Beard et al (WO 00/71226).

The Turner et al and Beard et al reference are relied on for the same reasons as stated, supra, and differ from the instant claims in the specific process parameters. However, in the absence of unexpected results, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to determine through routine experimentation the optimum, operable process parameters in the Turner et al reference in order to produce a purer product with increase speeds.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Kunemund whose telephone number is 571-272-1464. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RMK

BOBERT KUNEMUND